

May 14, 2008

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

County of Mendocino Department of Transportation
Little Lake Sidewalks Project
WDID No. 1B07167WNME

Mendocino County

On November 9, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sonoma County Regional Parks requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Little Lake Sidewalks Project located in Mendocino County. The proposed project causes permanent impacts to 0.01 acres of stream within the Big River Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 113.30.

The proposed project is located in the town of Mendocino, Mendocino County, California, (APN(s). No.119-140-23, 119-100-15). The latitude and longitude is 39.31108°N and -123.7945°W. The purpose of the project is to provide greater safety by widening the pedestrian/cyclist sidewalk. The current pedestrian route from the Town of Mendocino to the middle school is a 4 foot wide bike lane. The road experiences heavy vehicular traffic use at certain times and cars travel at relatively high velocities. The fact that the current lane is part of the existing road results in a potentially unsafe condition for students and others walking or biking along the route.

At the northwest corner of the middle school property there is a wetland area that will be permanently impacted by the widening of the existing bike lane. Modifications to an existing culvert and the addition of a multiple inlet at the top of the culvert are needed to support the widened edge of the proposed new 6 to 8 foot walkway. At present, a small perennial surface flow emanating from the school property terminates in an 18" culvert, eventually leading under the road and discharging in a northerly direction on the other side. The proposed widening activity will impact the wetland for a distance of 20-30 linear feet along the road, and as much as 8 feet to the south of current pavement edge. Any discharge would be a result of the placement and bedding of new culvert sections and a multiple inlet.

A second wet area is located near an existing road culvert at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Little Lake Road with Clark Street. That culvert currently drains runoff from the road and bike lane (and possibly a small seep area) and would likewise draw water off the proposed enhanced walkway. The replacement construction activity would entail a slight realignment of the existing culvert to accommodate the new walkway. Any discharge would be associated with digging up of the old culvert and placement of the new one, but the replacement would essentially be in a very similar location and serve the same function.

Compensatory mitigation will be the creation of an on-site wetland mitigation area at a 2:1 ratio of creation, to fill of existing wetland. Native hydrophytic wetland vegetation in the existing wetlands will be carefully excavated and nurtured until the created mitigation wetlands are ready to be replanted. The native vegetation then will be replanted in the created mitigation wetlands, as well as the addition of several other types of native wetland plants. Monitoring and reporting will be done annually for five years to assure function of the mitigation wetlands.

At a minimum, the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final Project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion: work in and around waterways will be conducted during the dry season; installation of construction barrier fencing to preclude equipment entry into sensitive areas; installation of silt fencing or fiber rolls to prevent sediment loss from immediate work area; topsoil salvage and reapplication; and seeding and mulching. Additionally, all required BMPs shall be on-site and ready for timely deployment, before start of construction activities.

The Little Lake Sidewalks Project is scheduled to begin in summer and end in fall 2008. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov , within 21 days of posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.